

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 INRE-00 SSO-00
MCT-01 DHA-02 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AGR-10 AID-05
NSCE-00 /092 W
-----101402Z 114534 /40

O R 101251Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1674
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 163

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: LOYALIST GENERAL STRIKE: EIGHTH DAY

REF: BELFAST 162

1. REPORTS CAME IN FROM TOWN OF BALLYMENA COUNTY ANTRIM
JUST BEFORE NOON LOCAL TODAY THAT THE TWO LEADERS OF
UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC) REVEREND IAN PAISLEY AND
ERNEST BAIRD HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY
(RUC). PAISLEY AND BAIRD WERE WITH FARMERS WHO HAVE
COMPLETELY BLOCKED CENTER OF TOWN WITH TRACTORS AND OTHER
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT FOR PAST 24 HOURS. POLICE HAVE NOW
CLEARED BLOCKS. THERE ALSO REPORT OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE
FIRST SERIOUS SECTARIAN CLASH. A CROWD ATTACKED FARMERS
WHO WERE BLOCKING COUNTY LONDONDERRY SIDE TOWN OF TOOMEBRIDGE
THIS MORNING. TWO FARMERS HURT, SHOTS WERE FIRED AND SEVERAL
TRACTORS BURNED OR PUSHED INTO RIVER. FARMERS ARE PROVIDING
MOST OF PROTEST TODAY WITH TEN TOWNS TOTALLY OR PARTIALLY
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BLOCKED WITH TRACTORS. BALLYLUMFORD ELECTRICITY STATION IS
MAINTAINING NORMAL LEVEL OF POWER BUT IS APPARENTLY DOING SO
BY USING WHITE COLLAR AND MANAGERIAL STAFF IN MANUAL JOBS.
SPOKESMAN FOR UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS AT
BALLYLUMFORD HAS ANNOUNCED THEY WILL WALK OUT AT MIDNIGHT
TOMORROW. LARNE HARBOR REMAINS CLOSED DESPITE MEETING
BETWEEN MINISTER OF STATE CONCANNON WITH DOCKERS YESTERDAY.

MOST FACTORIES ARE OPERATING ALMOST NORMALLY. THERE ARE FEW SIGNS OF STRIKE IN BELFAST AND THERE WERE FEWER ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK MAIN STREETS THIS MORNING RUSH HOUR THAN ANY PREVIOUS DAY.

2. ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL LEADER AND DEPUTY CHIEF UAC JIM SMYTH LAST NIGHT SUGGESTED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECURITY COUNCIL, TO BE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, PERHAPS THROUGH RECALL OF CONVENTION, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO END STRIKE. OFFICIAL UNIONIST LEADER HARRY WEST HAS REJECTED SUGGESTION SAYING OFFICIAL UNIONISTS ALREADY HAVE ACCESS TO SECRETARY OF STATE MASON ON SECURITY MATTERS.

3. THERE FEWER CLASHES YESTERDAY BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS WITH PROTEST ACTION COMING MOSTLY FROM FARMERS IN OUTLYING TOWNS AND IN TRACTOR PARADE IN BELFAST. THERE NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN ARMY AND STRIKERS. CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND DEMONSTRATORS WERE MORE SERIOUS HOWEVER AND TWO VOLICEMEN WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED. FULL-TIME DUTY FOR THE ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER WEEK. PROTESTANT PARAMILITARIES ARE ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED. THEY BELIEVE SUCCESS OF PROTEST LIMITED LARGELY BY POLICE ACTION AND BY " LIES" ORIGINATING WITH BRITISH AT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND DISSEMINATED BY MEDIA, PARTICULARLY BBC. THEY ARE ALSO ANGRY BECAUSE IN THEIR VIEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE 3000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS FOR PROVINCE IN THIS SITUATION TO " BASH PROTESTANTS" BUT WILL NOT RPT NOT USE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO DEFEAT PROVISIONAL IRA.

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GIVEN THE MOOD, THE TWO EVENTS THIS MORNING COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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